



Homer-Center School District  
District Administration Office  
*"Where Everybody is Somebody"*

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Homer-Center School District  
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November 9, 2020

Dear Parent, Guardian, Student, Staff, and Community Members,

The number of COVID cases in Indiana County and several surrounding counties are increasing. These elevated numbers have created issues for our Homer-Center School District. For the third week in a row, we will be placed in the Substantial Category. This is the highest of the three categories the state uses in determining COVID cases per county and the threat it can put on schools. We continue on a daily basis to get new positive cases within our community that impact our students, staff, and our Homer-Center families. With all of the new positive cases surrounding our district, this increases significantly our number of students and staff that has to quarantine.

With that being said, I would like to point out that the vast majority of these cases are being brought into schools rather than emanating from within. We cannot control what happens outside of school. The guidance of social distancing and mask wearing, and not gathering in large groups continues to be an issue. Until we as a community start following the guidelines of minimizing crowds, social distance as much as possible, and continued practice of wearing our masks we will struggle to keep the virus out of our schools and our homes.

We are going to proceed for the next two weeks, as long as we do not have a major outbreak of positive cases, to continue our current form of Face to Face instruction with some students choosing to remote into classrooms and some choosing our Academy of Choice. I would also take this time to encourage any students who can and want to remote into classes during these Substantial days to take advantage of what we can provide and go remote learning. We can provide the technology if needed to make your decision to go remote work as seamless as possible.

We will be making a change to our calendar. November 23<sup>rd</sup> will now be an ACT 80 Day for teachers with students staying home. We are going to make November 24<sup>th</sup> a vacation day to increase our separation time leading into Thanksgiving. We will use one of our existing snow days later in the year to make up for the added vacation day. At this time, we have not decided to make a change to our instructional delivery, but we will continue to monitor our cases closely to determine what our future days will look like. We will not make an overnight decision. Parents/Guardians would be given a sufficient amount of time to plan if any change is going to be made. If a change in instructional delivery were to happen based on numbers, we would use the options in the high school of remote learning 7-12 with students having connectivity or bandwidth issues still coming into the school. If we make a change in the elementary school, we would more than likely look at the Hybrid model Mrs. Rougeaux and Mrs. Genchur provided prior to the start of the school year.

Our goal is to provide the best possible education to all of our students. This should occur daily in the safest environment possible. Again, I ask all of our community to continue to follow the COVID guidelines of social distancing, wearing masks, and to minimize the numbers of people at gatherings. I greatly thank you for your time and your sincere attention to this matter. Together we can make our schools safer for our students to receive a great education.

Sincerely,

Curtis A. Whitesel  
Superintendent

[www.homercenter.org](http://www.homercenter.org)

*"Recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a 2008 Blue Ribbon School"*

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